

# q&a

## What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives money to **foster youth**, and former foster youth to use for career and technical training *or* college courses. You don't have to pay this money back as long as you are in school and you can use it for things like child care, transportation and rent. The Chafee Grant Program, also known as the Education and Training Voucher (ETV), is a **federally funded program and is subject to the availability of federal funds each year.**

## Where can I use my Chafee Grant?

Your Chafee Grant can be used at a California school and at schools in other states. In California, you can attend :

- Career and technical colleges
- California Community Colleges
- California State Universities
- University of California campuses
- Independent colleges
- Private colleges



If you have a question regarding a school, contact the Commission. (See back of the brochure)

## Stay in school or lose your Grant !

You must stay in school to keep your Chafee Grant! If your enrollment falls below half-time in the term(s) awarded, or if you get bad grades, you can lose your Chafee Grant money.

## How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- be eligible, or have been eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services, between your 16th and 18th birthdays.
- **not** have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year.



## How do I apply?

File two forms:

- *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. File online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) or get a paper form from your school.
- *California Chafee Grant Program Application*. Apply online or send the paper form to the Commission. Find the form on our Web site at [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov), or you may call your ILP coordinator for an application. *We encourage you to apply online.*

**No Social Security number?** Students without an SSN who are unable to complete a FAFSA must have their school contact the Commission for further instructions and assistance. If you have questions, contact the Commission at 1-888-224-7268, option 3.

## What is required to apply?

You must:

- enroll in an eligible career or technical school or college. (You can contact the Commission to verify that your school choice is eligible.)
- maintain at least half-time enrollment status.
- enroll in a program at least one academic year long, if you are enrolled at a career or technical school.
- attend class regularly and get good grades.

The following selection criteria are used to make awards:

- ✓ Students who are renewal students.
- ✓ Students who are aging out of the system.
- ✓ Students who have dependents.
- ✓ Students who have an unmet need of \$5,000 or more.
- ✓ Submission date of completed application.

## What happens after I apply?

- The Commission will review your award year FAFSA and your Chafee Grant Application.
- The California Department of Social Services will verify your ILP status.
- Your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility.
- Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter telling you of your award status.

## How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the career or technical school or college where you are enrolled. Check with your school's financial aid office about how the school will distribute the grant.



## How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

It's easy! All you need to do is complete the FAFSA for the award year. You do not need to submit another *Chafee Grant Application*.

Occasionally the Commission will contact you for updated information. **Be sure to respond to letters or forms that are sent to you.**

## Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants?

Yes, for more information, contact your:

- high school counselor
- college counselor
- college financial aid office
- county/college ILP Coordinator
- One-Stop Career Centers
- social worker/probation officer
- [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov)



## School change? Name change? Moving?

It is important to report any school, name, or address change to the Commission as soon as possible to avoid any delay in the award process.

## Get more cash for training or college!

Filling out a FAFSA is the *first* step to applying for thousands of dollars in other financial aid including:

- ◆ Cal Grant
- ◆ Pell Grant
- ◆ Federal Student Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- ◆ Campus and other aid

## Go to a workshop for help with forms

Get hands-on help completing the FAFSA and other financial aid forms at a high school or college financial aid workshop. Check with your school for dates and times.

## Cash for College Workshops

Cash for College Workshops are held in January and February of each year. Visit [californiacashforcollege.org](http://californiacashforcollege.org) or call 1-888-224-7268 for a workshop located near you.



## More resources for your financial aid search

### Searching Online:

Scholarships and other resources for foster youth attending a career and technical school or college can be accessed through:

- ◆ California Community Colleges [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com)
- ◆ California Conservation Corps [ccc.ca.gov](http://ccc.ca.gov)
- ◆ Casey Family Foundation [caseyfamily.org](http://caseyfamily.org)
- ◆ Find free money for training or college [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- ◆ FinAid -- free scholarship search engine [finaid.org](http://finaid.org)
- ◆ Guardian Scholars Program [fullerton.edu/guardianscholars](http://fullerton.edu/guardianscholars)
- ◆ Oranewood Children's Foundation [oranewoodfoundation.org](http://oranewoodfoundation.org)
- ◆ Orphan Foundation of America [orphan.org](http://orphan.org)

### Other resources:

- ◆ Transitional Housing Services - contact your ILP coordinator
- ◆ EOPS - Education Opportunity Program and Services - contact your school coordinator for more information

## How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



**Visit** the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at: [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov)



**Email** your questions to the Commission at: [studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov)



**Call** the Commission at:  
1-888-224-7268 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:55 p.m. Monday through Friday



**Write** the Commission at:  
California Student Aid Commission  
Specialized Programs Operations Branch  
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program  
P. O. Box 419029  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

## Let's keep in touch!

Once you have filed your FAFSA, log on at any time to CSAC's Web site at [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) and click on the link "WebGrants for Students" to change any of the following:

- ◆ Email address
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Mailing address
- ◆ Name
- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Social Security number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number



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Current or former foster youth?  
Get free cash for training or college!



foster youth

California Chafee Grant Program ?